



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – June 20, 2022

Top Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of May.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	31.94	1	Jim Dalglish	8.62	1	Joani Horvath	4.84
2	Robert Griffiths	17.26	2	Jake Liu	7.62	2	Reinhold Kauk	4.40
3	Mike Peng	16.07	3	Paul Latimer	6.68	3	Nancy Cattanach	4.31
4	Cindy Mahn	13.89	3	Roy Dandyk	6.68	4	Molly Worden	3.89
5	Moira Hollingsworth	12.14	5	Shelley Metcalfe	5.79	5	Belinda Burt	3.72
6	Liz McDowell	11.94	6	Jack Cole	5.63	6	Elinor Girouard	3.21
7	Ted Boyd	11.55	6	Lori Cole	5.63	7	Brian Gaber	3.03
8	Colin Harrington	10.46	8	Kevin Latter	5.51	7	Rick Arthur	3.03
9	Neil Coburn	10.35	9	Cheryl White	5.04	9	Anita Hanson	2.79
10	Edith Ferber	10.24	9	Cheryl Kip	5.04	10	Martin Jones	2.78
11	Neil Jeffrey	8.93	9	John Kip	5.04	11	Shirley Clarke	2.72
12	David Longstaff	8.88	12	Stephen Nantes	4.97	12	Barb Neibert	2.67
13	Sandy Graham	8.55	13	Muzaffar Husain	4.89	12	Virginia Alviano	2.67
14	Malkin Howes	7.04	13	Andy Martinek	4.89	14	Donna McKay	2.48
15	Kathy Russell	6.99	15	Suzanne Edwards	4.74	15	Philip Fiess	2.40
16	Diane Bourdeau	6.94	16	Andy Wilson	4.62	16	Jeannie Leforge	2.36
17	Scott Hills	5.96	17	Brian Kirkconnell	4.61	17	Joe Blake	2.28
18	Ronald Sayle	5.74	18	David Dennis	4.29	18	Lori Bailey	2.14
18	Paul Stillman	5.74	19	Nanci Phelan	4.12	19	Tong Chen	2.08
20	Dianne Aves	5.36	19	William Sherman	4.12	20	MJ Hartleib	1.94
21	Frank Fischer	5.18	21	Robert Gilck	4.09	20	Sue McDonald	1.94
22	Dave Quarrie	5.13	22	Lynda Burnett	3.79	22	Joanne Strong	1.89
23	Wayne Jordan	4.58	22	Sue Peterson	3.79	22	Patricia Malvern	1.89
24	Adrian Record	4.44	24	Karen Whitworth	3.61	24	Christine Kelly	1.74
25	Sharon King	3.80	25	Donna Coombe	3.56	25	Susan Durance	1.73

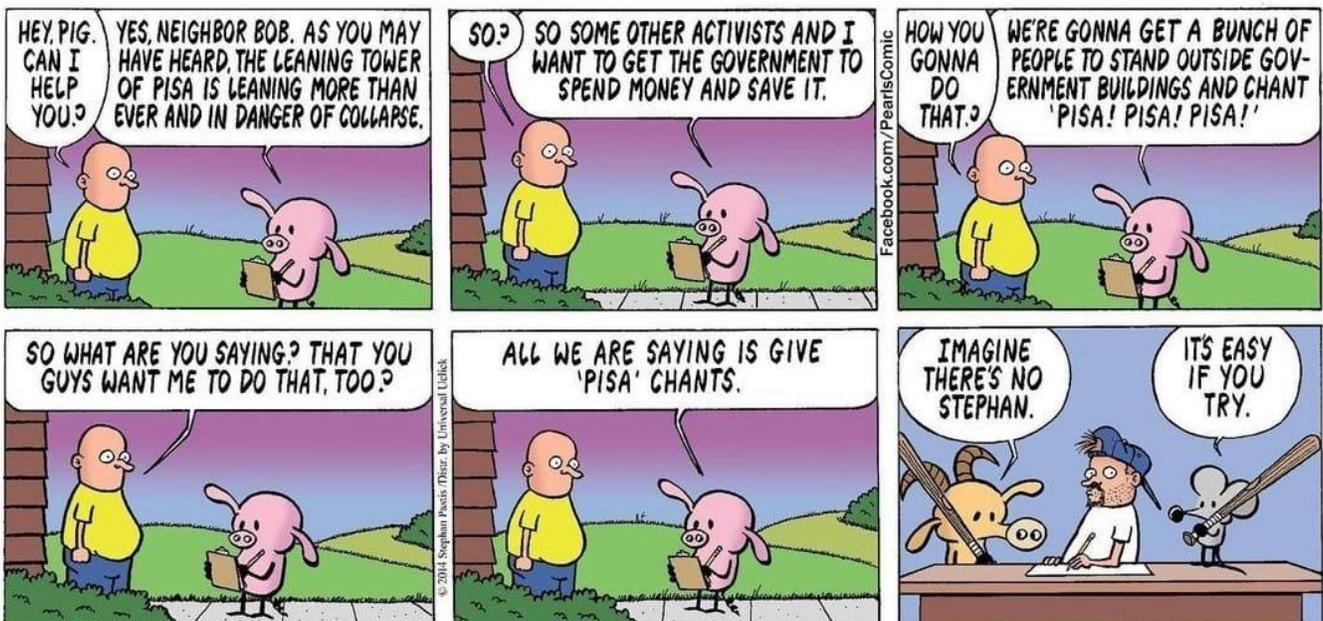
Club Championship Games

The ACBL wants to encourage your return to face-to-face-play. Accordingly, next week's three face-to-face games will be club championship games – extra masterpoints, no extra cost.

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED FACE-TO-FACE.

Coming Events

- Friday, June 17, 1:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
- Friday, June 17, 7:00 pm, open game (24 boards) (\$7 members/\$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
- Saturday, June 18, 1:00 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BB\$5
- Sunday, June 19, 10:00 am, 499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5
- Monday, June 20, 9:00 am, Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
- Monday, June 20, 12:30 pm, 99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
- Monday, June 20, 1:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Monday, June 20, 7:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Tuesday, June 21, 12:30 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
- Tuesday, June 21, 1:00 pm, open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE EXTRA MASTERPOINTS**
- Wednesday, June 22, 1:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Wednesday, June 22, 6:45 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
- Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, June 23, 9:30 am, 99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, June 23, 1:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, June 23, 6:30 pm, 19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, June 23, 7:00 pm, 999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, July 5 – Sunday, July 10, [Toronto Summer Regional](#)



Friday Night Open Game Has Changed to Face-to-Face

In response to a request from the players, the Friday night open game has now changed to face-to-face. Last Friday's inaugural game attracted four tables, and many of the players went to McMullin's après. Roving photographer Moira Hollingsworth was on hand to capture the moment. Let's try for five tables this week!



Membership Report

June is membership month at GRBC. We currently have 161 paid-up members. If you haven't yet joined our club/renewed your membership, don't wait for spring (or the end of June). The cost is a mere \$70.

Click [here](#) for information on how to make payment.

If you are joining for the first time, you also need to fill out [our membership form](#).

And a warm welcome to these new club members....

- **Randall DeKraker**
- **Paul Raymond**

Treasurer Job

Bev Pope has now completed more than three years as the club's treasurer and now it's time to say well done thou good and faithful servant. In other words, we are looking for someone else to take over as treasurer.

It seems likely that a club full of bridge players must encompass quite a few numbers people. You don't need to be an accountant to do this job (only one of our past treasurers was an accountant), but you do need to understand financial statements, be detail-oriented, and be comfortable with computers (we use QuickBooks). The treasurer also sits on the board of directors.

For more information, write to [Bev Pope](#) or call her at 519-496-1159.

We Need Your Input – Please Complete our Online Survey

We will be sending out a short survey on your playing preferences over the summer months. Please take 5-10 minutes to complete the survey. We would very much appreciate hearing from as many of our members as possible!



to **William Christian** who achieved a 77.92% game in the San Miguel Allende Thursday Pairs on June 9, 2022.

Covid Update

The Board has decided that masks will continue to be optional.

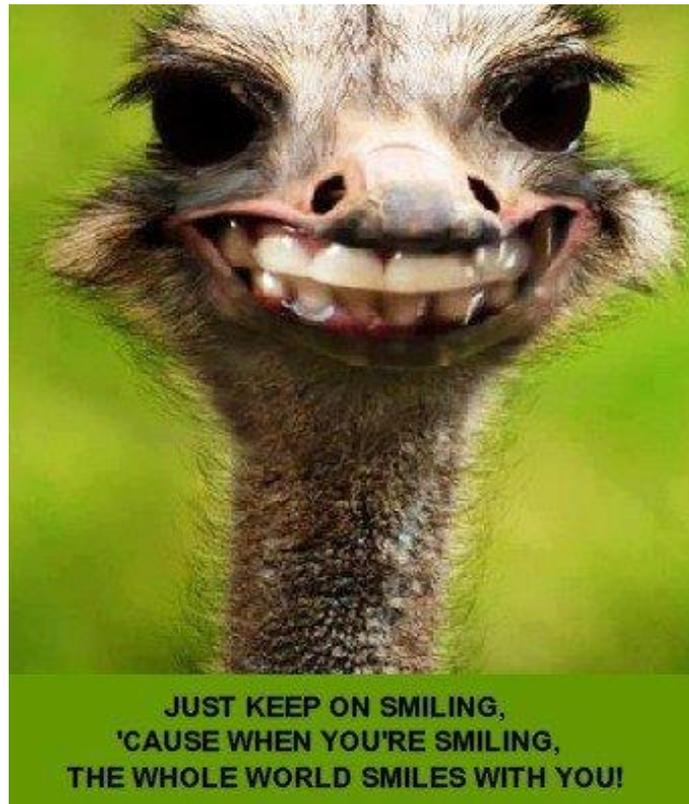
The Saran Wrap will be removed from the Bridgemates to make them easier to manipulate.

Although it will no longer be a requirement to clean items used on a daily basis, we encourage you to be responsible for your own safety.

Hand sanitizer and Lysol wipes are available, and frequent hand washing continues to be recommended.

Announce Your No Trump Range

There is a rumour going around our club that it is no longer necessary to announce your no trump range for an opening one no trump bid. This is emphatically not true. Online, you must type your range in when you open one no trump. At the club, your partner must announce the range when you open one no trump.



The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the "The Answer Lady", I have been responding to questions from "newer" players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players' questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Question 1

I recently played in an online game where my partner sitting North opened 1♣ and the East opponent bid 2♣. When we asked the meaning of the 2♣ bid, the answer was 22+ HCP. This is a very different response than the one you provided in your May 9, 2020 column in the Alert. There you described 1♣-2♣ to show a Michaels cue bid, a 5/5-shaped hand. I have shown our online hand below. So, Answer Lady, what is right: 1♣-2♣ to show Michaels or 1♣-2♣ to show a big hand?

19 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ A ♥ 1062 ♦ AQ52 ♣ J9532	P 1♣ 2♣ P 2♠ P 4NT P P P
W West		E East
♠ J98765 ♥ J94 ♦ 86 ♣ 84		♠ K42 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ K1097 ♣ AK
	S South	
	♠ Q103 ♥ 875 ♦ J43 ♣ Q1076	4NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

Thank you, very observant newer player for catching a variation on a 1♣-2♣ bidding sequence and providing this interesting hand.

Answer 1

Actually $1\clubsuit-2\clubsuit$ to show a Michaels cue bid **and** $1\clubsuit-2\clubsuit$ to show a big hand are both right, such are the intricacies of bridge. Other players might even use $1\clubsuit-2\clubsuit$ to show a really long club suit. All three possibilities are listed on the back of the convention card under DIRECT CUEBID. The first two (Michaels and strong take-out) are deemed self-alerting and thus are not alertable, but the third possibility (showing clubs) is **alertable**.

As you discovered in this situation, some partnerships prefer to reserve the use of cue bids such as $1\clubsuit-2\clubsuit$ to indicate very strong hands, that is 22+ points, much like a $2\clubsuit$ opening hand. They thus don't use Michaels cue bids and will usually bid shapely hands in a different way. As you can see, it's very important to **ask** what these bids might mean just as you did. Partnership agreements are also key to knowing and using $1\clubsuit-2\clubsuit$ bids as they are open to miscommunication and errors.

In this particular hand, North bid $1\clubsuit$ and East then bid $2\clubsuit$ to show that big hand. This is an artificial **forcing** bid that says nothing about clubs - partner cannot pass unless there is interference. In this situation, South did pass and West bid his/her best suit, spades. Even though West had only two points, she/he had to bid. Unfortunately, things went a little awry after the spade bid when East decided to jump to 4NT and down went the contract. Caution on East's part should have prevailed, as East had no idea of his/her partner's point count (after all, East had been forced to bid). The only pair to receive a good score on this hand was the one that bid $1\clubsuit-1NT$, but the 1NT bid doesn't truly reflect the point count in East's hand. Other pairs in 2NT, 3NT, and 4NT ended up going down. A better option would likely have been a contract in spades, given that West has six spades but only two points.

Question 2

I had a similar situation while playing in a casual game, so no image of the hand is available. I wondered what I should have bid. I had 23 HCP and a balanced hand (four spades, three hearts, two diamonds, and four clubs). My RHO opened $1\clubsuit$ and I overcalled $1\spadesuit$. Not surprisingly, my partner passed and I ended up in $1\spadesuit$ making 4♠. Is there a bid I could have used? I didn't think double was the correct bid. Maybe 1NT?

Answer 2

With regard to this 23-point hand, I am not sure what you and your partner had agreed upon regarding how to deal with big hands after the opponents bid. If you had the artificial $2\clubsuit$ forcing bid agreement, you could have used a cue bid as we witnessed on the previous hand. You also mention "you didn't think a double was the correct bid". If you don't have the artificial $2\clubsuit$ agreement, you can make a "power double". Doubles, whether take-out or power, are forcing and your partner can't pass - unless there is interference or unless you are able to convert your partner's double to a penalty double because you are loaded in the opponent's suit. (Here the likelihood of interference is minimal as the majority of the points are confined to you and opener. That said, responder could try to interfere with very few points but say a long club suit.)

Let's assume that the opponents wouldn't interfere. Once your partner has made his forced bid, you (as the player with the big hand) describe your hand further by bidding a new suit or jumping in your partner's suit. This is a "wake-up call" for your partner, communicating that you have a very big hand and she/he can explore the possibility of game by describing his/her hand further. If your partner bids hearts or spades after your double, with four in his/her suit and 23 HCP you would immediately jump to four of the suit. If your partner bids a minor or a major in which you don't have four cards, a game in no trump is a possibility, as long as you have stoppers in opener's suit.

The key is that you must bid after your partner doubles and then bids a new suit to show a big hand. A discussion with your partner as to the meaning of a double followed by a new suit or a jump can assist your partnership in handling big hands after the opponents open the bidding. Hope that helps.

Conventional Wisdom

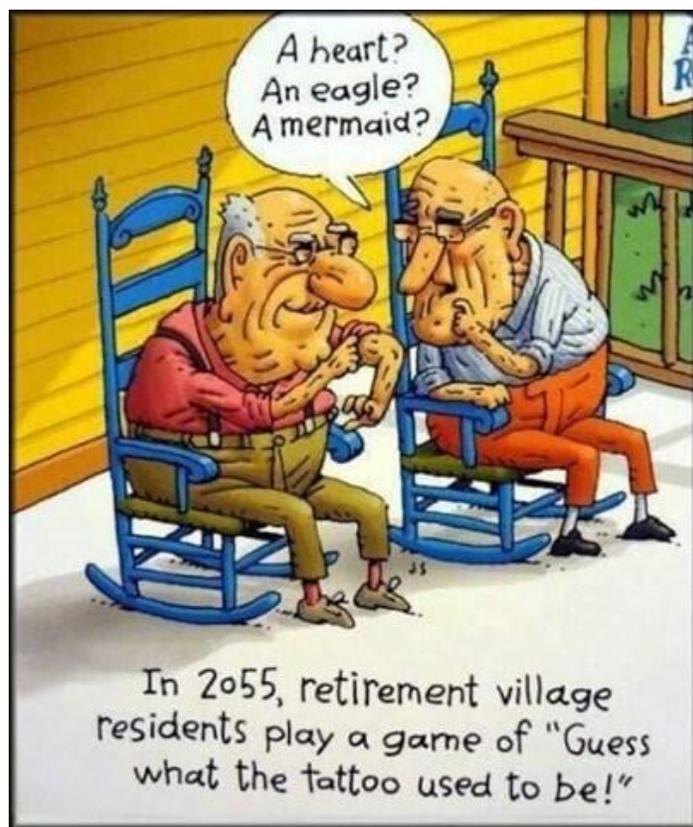
This is the eleventh in a series of columns. Today, we will start discussing conventions, starting with the most useful ones [according to Larry Cohen](#). First up is Negative Doubles.

Negative doubles are always made by a responder following a one-level opening bid by his partner and an interfering bid by his right-hand opponent. The double usually promises at least six HCP, shortness in both bid suits, and at least four cards in one of the unbid suits. If one major suit is unbid, the negative double always promises that suit, while if two major suits are unbid, the negative double promises at least four in one of the major suits and at least three in the other major suit (many partnerships promise at least four in both major suits). The negative doubler must have extra points if his double forces his partner to the two level and even more points if his double forces his partner to the three level.

You will find negative doubles on the back of your convention card in the upper left-hand corner in the SPECIAL DOUBLES section. Check the box and then write how high you and your partner agree that it's a negative double. Most people write 3♠ on the line, but many good players play that negative doubles apply up to 4♠.

Negative doubles are quite complicated and there is lots to learn and many mistakes to be made on the road to mastery. But don't forget – they are Larry Cohen's Number One convention!

If you are interested in learning more about negative doubles, there is tons on the Internet – for example, [this write-up at bridgebum](#) and [this write-up from the Bulletin](#). There are also some videos, for example [this one](#). And Barbara Seagram does a very nice treatment of negative doubles in her book *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*. If you would be interested in an online or in-person lesson on negative doubles, write to [Malkin Howes](#) specifying your mode preference and possible time lines.



TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

If you and your friends have a burning desire to take lessons on a particular topic – online or face to face - please email [Malkin](#), our lesson lead, and she will see what she can do. We currently have a group that may be interested in lessons on the **Precision bidding system**. Watch this space!

It would also be possible to offer a free workshop on face-to-face play if there were enough interest.

In the meantime, we have these recorded lessons available.

Recorded Lessons

The following recordings are available for \$10. To order one or more of them, send in your payment specifying what it is for (click [here](#) for information on how to pay).

- John Hanemaayer's **novice** workshop on **Filling out your Convention Card**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Killer Signals**
 - Jack Cole's **novice** workshop on **Playing in our Online Games**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Opening Leads**
 - Jack Cole's **novice** workshop on **Scoring Matters**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Third Seat Play**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Second Seat Play**
 - Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Discards and Strategies**
-



FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Big Red Lie

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12											
East Deals	♠ J 10 9										
E-W Vul	♥ 5 2										
	♦ K 9 8										
	♣ A K Q 9 6										
♠ K 7 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 8 7		♥ K Q J 9 6 4									
♦ 10 6 5 4 3		♦ A Q 2									
♣ 10 8 7		♣ J 4									
	♠ A Q 8 4 2										
	♥ A 10 3										
	♦ J 7										
	♣ 5 3 2										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
		1 ♥	1 ♠								
Pass	4 ♠	All pass									

East dealt and opened 1♥. South overcalled 1♠ and North jumped to 4♠ after West's pass.

4♠ was passed out and West dutifully led the ♥8. Before he plays to Trick 1, East should consider the whole hand.

If West can win a trick, likely a spade, East can see that only a diamond shift will defeat the contract.

The "correct" heart for East to play at Trick 1 is the jack, the lowest of touching honours. But if East plays the jack losing to Declarer's ace, then West - should he get in - might well lead another heart, fearing that Declarer's heart losers will be swallowed up by Dummy's clubs.

But this is a good time for East to make a deceptive play. In order to deceive his partner, East should play the ♥K on Trick 1, denying possession of the queen.

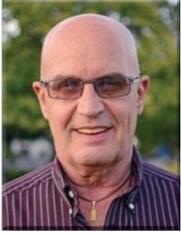
If East's carding denies the ♥Q, then West ought to look elsewhere for tricks - and the only reasonable hope would be diamonds.

If West, on winning his spade trick, shifts to a diamond, then E/W will win their four tricks. Any other shift allows the contract to be made.



Occasionally, it's okay to deceive your partner.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Contributed by David Baker

Count

Hi Dave, it looks as if we had the same issue as you did yesterday. My partner thought his play of the ♠K asked me to drop the queen. I played an attitude card and she took that as count. One EW pair played 5♣ (making six). The other nine tables played 3NT by East. Only two N/S pairs figured out the spade suit to beat 3NT.

Eddie Kantar says in his *Basic Bridge Defence* book that the lead of an ace against no trump promises four honours. Some the of the traditional ideas on opening leads were challenged recently by David Bird. Your thoughts?

D 12	N North	W N E S
	♠ Q874 ♥ 10986 ♦ 105 ♣ QJ9	1♣ P 1♠ P 2♦ P 3NT P P P
W West	E East	
♠ ♥ K73 ♦ AQ984 ♣ A7632	♠ 9632 ♥ AQ2 ♦ KJ3 ♣ K105	
	S South	
	♠ AKJ105 ♥ J54 ♦ 762 ♣ 84	3NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

I will begin by saying I have never heard of the lead of an ace promising four honours. That seems like a once-in-a-blue-moon waste to me. A better method when you have the ace and king (and length) against a NT contract, would be to use the ace or king to ask different questions. My preference is to play AcKa (Ace asks for count and K asks for attitude). With AKJ105, lead the king (asking for attitude). If partner says he likes spades (by playing the ♠4 if you play upside-down or the ♠8 if you play standard), you continue with a low spade and you take the first five tricks. If he says he doesn't like spades, you switch suits and hope he gets in to lead another spade.

(Playing this understanding, you will often not know whether partner has AK or KQ when he leads the king. Assume partner has AK and play accordingly. When partner leads the king, he will know you are signalling as if he were leading from AK.)

If you have something like AKJxx or AK10xx, you might need to know how many spades your partner has in order to find the best defense. You lead the ace (asking for count) and decide how to proceed armed with your partner's information.

While we are talking about honour leads against NT: the lead of the queen asks partner to play the jack or, if partner doesn't have the jack, give count. The leader's hand will be something like KQ1092. The lead of the jack asks partner to play the 10 or give count. The leader's hand will be something like QJ982.

One more thing: if partner leads the queen and you see 10xxx in dummy, don't drop the jack. If partner leads the jack and you see 9xxx in dummy, don't drop the 10. These agreements will greatly improve your results, but don't try them without a firm agreement. This is how the experts defend.

"John and Yoko waiting for the maid to make the bed so they can continue protesting against the system."



For Intermediate *Jake's*
Play a Bad Hand Well

#77

♠ AQJ82
 ♥ AKQJ4
 ♦ 3
 ♣ 53



♠ 109753
 ♥ 1063
 ♦ AKJ9
 ♣ 7

West North East South

1♣¹ 3♣² 3♠
 5♣ 6♠ All pass

- 16+ HCP
- Pre-emptive

My partner wasn't deterred by the sand the opponents were throwing in his eyes with all their club pre-empting.

The opening lead was the ♠6 instead of a club, because West was worried that I might be void in clubs. I went up with the ♠A as I couldn't afford to finesse (if the finesse lost, East would waste no time putting a club on the table and I would be down right out of the gate). East played a small spade on dummy's ace. I still didn't know the king's whereabouts - although I was pretty sure East had it because West was highly unlikely to have led a small spade away from the king. What now?

SOLUTION

A diamond finesse is tempting, because if it works you can get rid of the dummy's two club losers on your ♦AK and make your contract. But if the finesse doesn't work you could easily go down two. Should you put all your eggs in the 50% finesse basket?

It would be very helpful to know who holds the ♦Q. Let's analyze suit by suit. As mentioned above, the ♠K is most likely in East's hand. All of the heart honours are accounted for already. So that just leaves clubs. East must have decent clubs for his 3♣ bid, but not much else. And West found a 5♣ bid, don't forget, so he has to have *some* points. It's looking more and more as if the ♦Q is in West's hand - meaning that a diamond finesse is unlikely to succeed. Time for Plan B.

As things stand, you can throw one of dummy's losing clubs on a top diamond. And you may be able to develop your hand's fourth diamond, the ♦9, into a trick if East has to drop the ♦10 at some point. This looks like your best option.

So, at Tricks 2 and 3 you cash your ♦A and ♦K, pitching a club on the king. Both opponents will follow suit. At Trick 4, you lead the ♦J from your hand and watch to see if West covers it or not. If not, cross your fingers and pitch your last club from the board. If West does cover, ruff with a high (to maintain trump flexibility) trump, let's say the ♠J, and hope East contributes the ♦10. It works like a charm!

At Trick 5, you enter your hand with the ♥10, cash the ♦9, and pitch dummy's second and last club. At this point, you are home-free even East ruffs in with his ♠K - because you've got rid of both of dummy's club losers and you have to lose to the spade king no matter what.

Here is the complete deal.

	♠ AQJ82	
	♥ AKQJ4	
	♦ 3	
	♣ 53	
♠ 6	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K4
♥ 987		♥ 52
♦ Q8754		♦ 1062
♣ K984		♣ AQJ1062
	♠ 109753	
	♥ 1063	
	♦ AKJ9	
	♣ 7	

A club lead would have defeated your contract, but you made good use of your opponent's mistake.

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- ♠ Log in to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder Advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game. OR
- ♠ Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 We now have four F2F events every week at our **club**.